

HARDWARE RANCH WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN

DRAFT ANNOTATED OUTLINE

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**UTAH DIVISION OF
Wildlife Resources**

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1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2.0 HARDWARE RANCH WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA MISSION

The mission of Hardware Ranch Wildlife Management Area is to provide healthy habitats to support sustainable wildlife populations, and to increase public awareness and stewardship.

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 History of Hardware Ranch Wildlife Management Area
- 3.2 Management Authority and Administrative Rules
- 3.3 Guide to the Management Plan
- 3.4 Planning process, public involvement, adoption process

4.0 CURRENT CONDITIONS AND TRENDS

- 4.1 Setting and Geography
- 4.2 Physical, Biological, and Cultural Resources
- 4.3 WMA Mission Programs
 - 4.3.1 Habitat Enhancement
 - 4.3.2 Education and Outreach
- 4.4 Other WMA Activities
 - 4.4.1 Winter Elk feeding
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 - 4.4.4 Shoshone Trail
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 - 4.5.1 Ranch Operations – irrigation, hay raising, horse program
 - 4.5.2 Infrastructure, equipment
 - 4.5.3 Personnel and Budget
 - 4.5.4 Funding Sources

5.0 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- 5.1 Desired Future Conditions
- 5.2 WMA Mission Habitat Goals
 - Goal 1 – Maintain and Enhance Wildlife Habitat
 - Goal 2 – Manage wildlife to support management plans and conservation agreements
 - Goal 3 – Evaluate Existing Habitat Management Programs for Effectiveness

Goal 4 – Support research to improve wildlife and aquatic resources

Goal 5 – Manage Recreational Access - camping, Shoshone Trail snowmobile trailhead

Goal 6 – Control Invasive Species

5.3 WMA Mission Outreach Goals

Goal 1 - Facilitate awareness, exploration and stewardship of wildlife resources through hands on, place based education programs.

Goal 2 - Provide long and short term volunteer opportunities that foster stewardship of wildlife resources and assist in achieving management objectives.

Goal 3 - Collaborate with partners that complement UDWR and HWRMA goals and missions.

Goal 4 - Effectively interpret on site resources and management actions, using nationally accepted interpretive standards and methods that inspire understanding, support and stewardship.

Goal 5 - Communicate pro –actively with constituents how management strategies and mission fulfill habitat and wildlife goals for the Wildlife Management Area.

Goal 6 - Develop techniques to assess and evaluate the effectiveness of communications and programs

Goal 7 - Provide accurate, inspiring, and friendly visitor services.

Goal 8 - Secure internal agency and external funding sources for short and long term conservation outreach programming.

5.4 Wildlife Management Area Operations Goals

Goal 1 – Feed wintering elk to minimize impacts to landowners in Cache Valley

Goal 2 - Ensure employee and visitor safety

Goal 3 - Maintain WMA operations, facilities, infrastructure, and programs

Goal 4 - Provide opportunities for hunting, fishing, and wildlife watching

Goal 5 - Increase awareness and compliance with existing regulations

Goal 6 - Maintain hay production and ranch operations

Goal 7 – Utilize grazing to enhance wildlife habitat

6.0 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

This chapter will generally discuss how Plan goals and objectives will be pursued. Specific activities that will be undertaken to support achievement of the Plan goals and objectives will be identified and prioritized in Appendix C. Implementation activities will be accompanied by proposed timelines, needed funding and potential funding sources, and identification of the parties responsible for each activity.

7.0 MAPS

8.0 APPENDICES

Appendix A - WMA Natural Resources (Background resources information from prior plans and studies)

Appendix B – WMA Education and Outreach Plan

Appendix C – Plan Implementation

Example

Habitat Goal 1 – Maintain and Enhance Wildlife Habitat

Objective 1.1 – Assess and inventory condition of wildlife habitat in each bio area of HRWMA

Activity 1 – Create a wildlife habitat assessment team and develop a schedule and methodology for inventorying the condition of big game habitat within HRWMA

- 1) Current Funding: If any
- 2) Potential Funding Sources:
- 3) Responsibility: Identify by management level or DWR position
- 4) Timeline: Can include milestones and projected completion dates

Appendix D – Grazing (Description of past grazing practices and results, recent grazing study)

Appendix E – Public Comment (Identification , analysis, and responses to all public comments received)